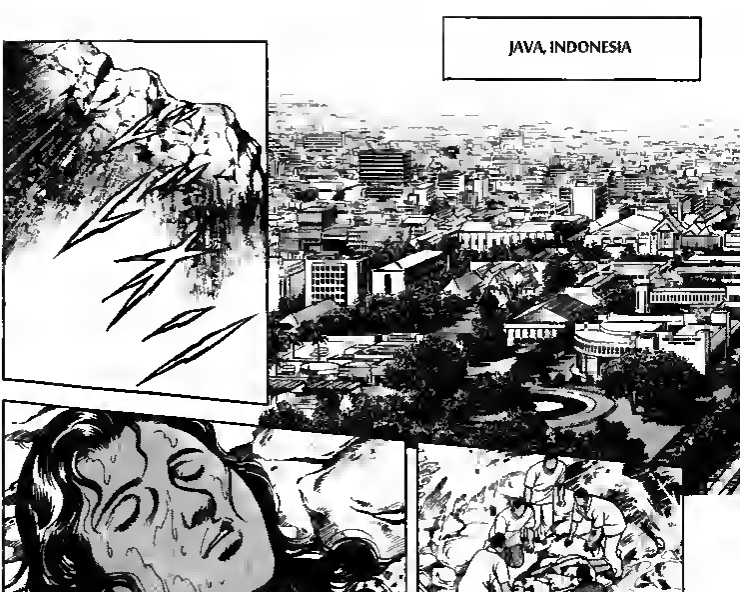
#14:
THE MYSTERY OF
WAYANG KULIT


JAVA, INDONESIA

POOR GIRL
SHE WAS ABOUT TO BE HIRED AS A HOTEL WORKER, BUT WHEN SHE WENT TO THE INTERVIEW, SHE WAS ASSAULTED
IT HAD TO HAVE BEEN RUSKA
AL-OU!
AL-OU!
AL-OU!

I'M SORRY, MR. JAYAMA, BUT I CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER HE'S JUST TOO POWERFUL
BESIDES, WE DON'T HAVE ANY POWER INSIDE THAT RESORT
PLEASE INVESTIGATE THIS! THIS WAS ABSOLUTELY INHUMAN!
AL-OU!

THE GOVERNMENT INVITED THAT BUSINESS HERE TO ACQUIRE FOREIGN CURRENCY. WE CAN'T START AN INVESTIGATION IN EARNEST WITHOUT EVIDENCE..
YOU CAN TRY, BUT IT WON'T WORK.
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE! I'LL TAKE THIS TO THE STATE!

THIS IS OUR LAND!
SO ARE YOU SAYING THAT WE JUST HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS...?
ON THE SURFACE, YES.. BUT THE FACT IS, IT'S NOT ALL THAT SIMPLE.
THIS COUNTRY IS INDEPENDENT! IT'S OUR COUNTRY NOW!

SOB... ALOU...

THE JAVAN ART OF WAYANG KULIT* HAS A THOUSAND YEARS OF HISTORY
*SHADOW PUPPETRY

DURING WEDDINGS AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS, PEOPLE WILL PAY FOR A DALANG* TO COME AND PERFORM
*PUPPETEER

WAYANG KULIT PERFORMANCES ALSO HAVE BACKSTAGE SEATS, ALLOWING PEOPLE TO WATCH THE PUPPETS, NOT JUST THEIR SHADOWS.
A TROUPE IS COMPOSED OF THE DALANG, A GAMELAN ORCHESTRA MADE UP OF SEVENTEEN KINDS OF INSTRUMENTS, AND A CHOIR OF TEN-ODD PEOPLE
THE LAKON* IS SELECTED FROM A CERITA RAKYAT**
*PLAY **FOLK TALE

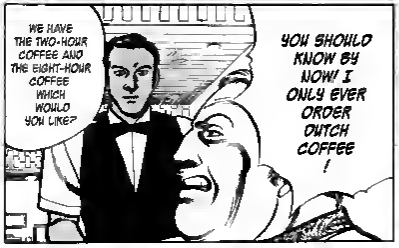
THE ONLY ONES AWAKE IN THE THEATER ARE THE DALANG AND THE GAMELAN PLAYERS AT THIS TIME, THEY WILL INTRODUCE THE JESTER.
BY MIDNIGHT THE AUDIENCE BECOMES SLEEPY AND FALLS ASLEEP IN THE MIDDLE DE THE PLAY.
HIS COMEDIC ACTIONS AWAKEN THE SLEEPING AUDIENCE AND THE THEATER IS FILLED WITH LAUGHTER.
HA HA HA
W O W !
THEN, THE HERO "HANUMAN" ENTERS THE STAGE.
THAT IS WHEN IT HAPPE-NED.

INFANTI RUSKA, THE INDONESIAN BRANCH DIRECTOR OF A SOUTH PACIFIC RESORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
IT'S HANU-MAN !
EEE EEK! RUN!
HOW DREAD-FUL !
WHOEVER HANUMAN STARES AT WILL SURELY DIE!
FOOD !!
FADU-KA! WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS ?
FIDAL FADUKA, CHIEF OF THE JAVA TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING OFFICE
IT'S NOTHING BUT A PRACTICAL JOKE

THIS PRANK WAS IN POOR TASTE! MR. KUSKA HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR DAUGHTER!
IS SOME-THING THE MATTER, SIR?
THAT'S ODD ...
HANU-MAN'S EYES GLOWED!
WHAT!?

MR RUSKA, I'M SORRY THAT MY PLAN TO INTRODUCE YOU TO TRADITIONAL JAVANESE CULTURE HAD TO END LIKE THAT

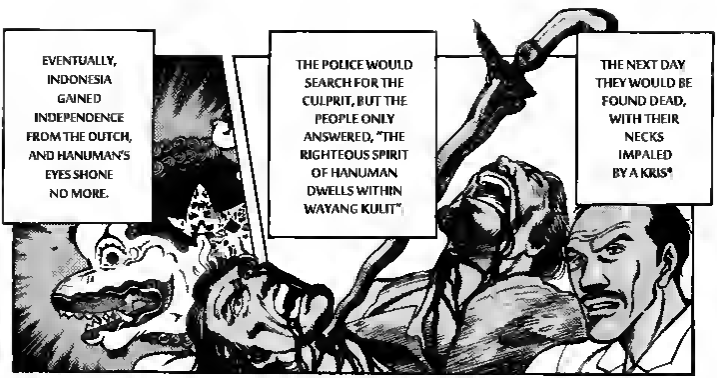
I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE IT IN THE FIRST PLACE!


WE HAVE THE TWO-HOUR COFFEE AND THE EIGHT-HOUR COFFEE WHICH WOULD YOU LIKE?
YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW! I ONLY EVER ORDER DUTCH COFFEE!

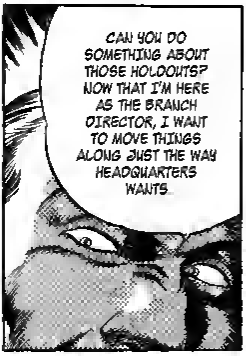
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER?

OR DO YOU THINK THE TWO HOUR ONE WOULD BETTER SUIT MY TASTE?
DO YOU EVEN NEED TO ASK? WHICHEVER ONE'S BETTER!

YES - LIKE I SAID, IT'S JUST A PRACTICAL JOKE -
BY THE WAY, WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT? THOSE WHO HANUMAN STARES AT WILL DIE.. IS?
MY APOLOGIES
YES, SIR THE TRUTH IS -
PA-OU-KA !
YOUR PANIC AND THEIR SHOCK SEEMED TO SAY THERE'S A LITTLE BIT MORE TO IT THAN JUST A PRACTICAL JOKE
AND IN THE TIME BEFORE THEY HAD ANY OTHER AMUSEMENT, THE WICKED DUTCH OFFICIALS AND MERCHANTS WOULD COME TO SEE WAYANG KULIT PLAYS, AND HANUAN'S EYES WOULD SHINE UPON THEM.
AS HE APPEARS IN THE WAYANG KULIT PLAYS, HANUMAN IS A FRIEND OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WHO DEFEATS EVIL.
INDONESIA WAS ONCE A DUTCH COLONY THE COLONIAL RULE WAS VERY STRICT AND THE PEOPLE SUFFERED UNDER IT
THEY WOULD BE KILLED LIKE INSECTS AT THE SLIGHTEST REBELLION THAT IS WHEN HANUMAN ENTERED THE PICTURE

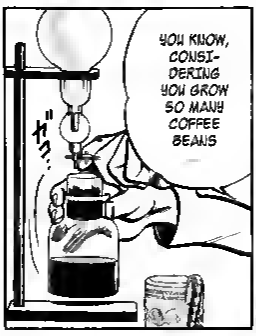

EVENTUALLY, INDONESIA GAINED INDEPENDENCE FROM THE DUTCH, AND HANUMAN'S EYES SHONE NO MORE.
THE POLICE WOULD SEARCH FOR THE CULPRIT, BUT THE PEOPLE ONLY ANSWERED, "THE RIGHTEOUS SPIRIT OF HANUMAN DWELLS WITHIN WAYANG KULIT".
THE NEXT DAY THEY WOULD BE FOUND DEAD, WITH THEIR NECKS IMPALED BY A KRIS*

*SWORD

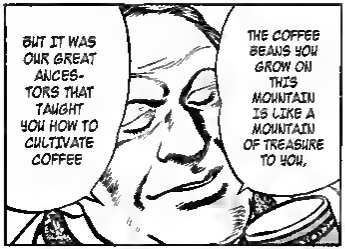

CAN YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE HOLDOUTS? NOW THAT I'M HERE AS THE BRANCH DIRECTOR, I WANT TO MOVE THINGS ALONG JUST THE WAY HEADQUARTERS WANTS.

BUT OF COURSE NOT! WE DO HAVE SOME HOLDOUTS, BUT WE'VE ALREADY BOUGHT UP 80% OF THE LAND WE NEED
AND THAT MAKES IT SOUND LIKE OUR LARGE-SCALE RESORT PROJECT IS EVIL
BAH! THAT'S NOTHING BUT SUPERSTITION.

YOU PEOPLE HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO DRINK THEM.

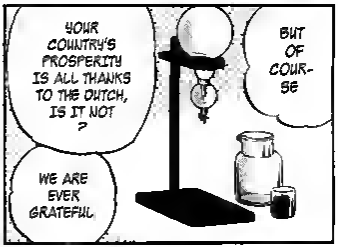

YOU KNOW, CONSIDERING YOU GROW SO MANY COFFEE BEANS
カ"...

I'LL DO MY BEST.


BUT IT WAS OUR GREAT ANCES-TORS THAT TAUGHT YOU HOW TO CULTIVATE COFFEE
THE COFFEE BEANS YOU GROW ON THIS MOUNTAIN IS LIKE A MOUNTAIN OF TREASURE TO YOU,

MMMM, THAT HITS THE SPOT!
MY APO-LO-GIES
Z°

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE DUTCH COFFEE !


YOUR COUNTRY'S PROSPERITY IS ALL THANKS TO THE DUTCH, IS IT NOT ?
BUT OF COUR-SE
WE ARE EVER GRATEFUL

AS FOR THOSE HOLO-OUTS
PERHAPS A FIRE COULD CHANGE THEIR MINDS
HUH !?

OH, BY THE WAY
?

GO ON AND PAY, FA-DWKA
UH, YES, SIR

HEEH HEEH HEEH !
UH, YES, SIR
I NEVER SAID ANYTHING UNDER-STOOD ?
H... HANI-MAN !?
AHH !
DON'T SCREAM, OR YOU'LL REGRET IT.
GGH !

BUT WE CANNOT USE THEM
AND IN FACT, YOU HAVE BUILT OVER THIRTY ULTRA-MODERN HOTELS AND LEISURE FACILITIES ON THE ISLAND
THAT IS WHAT ALL THE FOREIGNERS WHO COME TO THIS ISLAND SAY
I-I'M... I'M DOING BUSINESS TO IMPROVE YOUR LIVELI-HOODS
.....
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT YOU HAVE CAJOLED US INTO GIVING YOU OUR ANCESTRAL LANDS !
THIS IS OUR LAND, YET WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SET FOOT ON IT
THAT IS WHAT WE BELIEVED FOR 30 YEARS.. AND WE WORKED AND WORKED BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD WE WORKED, WE COULD NEVER STAY THERE
BUT THE RESORTS GIVE YOU A PLACE TO WORK
AND YOU HAVE LONG MOCKED US FOR USING OUR HANDS AND WATER TO CLEAN OUR-SELVES
WHEN YOU DEFECATE, YOU CLEANSE IT WITH OVERFLOWING WATER FROM YOUR FLUSH TOILETS
YET OUR HOMES HAVE NO PLUMBING, NO SEWERS, NOT EVEN ELECTRI-CITY
P-PLEASE SPARE ME ...
IT IS ONLY THE SMALL HANDFUL OF BROWN-NOSERS WHO ARE DELIGHTED BY IT
B-BUT WE HAVE A CONTRACT FROM YOUR GOVERN-MENT ...

P- PLEASE DON'T KILL ME !
BUT WITHOUT THEM, YOUR COUNTRY WON'T HAVE A FUTURE..
VERY WELL WE CAN FARM AS WE ALWAYS HAVE. WE CAN GO OUT TO THE SEA AND CATCH FISH
THIS WILL LEAD TO THE LOSS OF TOO MUCH NATURE
YOU ARE CURRENTLY PLANNING FIVE GOLF COURSES AND A SEASIDE RESORT TOWN
A- AL- RIGHT ...
LEAVE THE ISLAND WITHIN A WEEK.. OR YOU WILL DIE
THIS IS A WAR- NING.
OHHH! YOUR INDONESIAN IS VERY GOOD!
Selamat siang (GOOD AFTERNOON)
OHH! YOU MUST BE MR. ZERO!

BY THE WAY ...
Apukah saudara mau minum sesuatu?
(WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO DRINK?)
Terima kasih
(THANK YOU)
SOUTH PACIFIC RESORT DEVELOPMENT ZONE
GYAAA AAAAH!
WAAA AAAA AAAAH!
I NEVER KNEW FIRE WAS SUCH A SILVER BULLET!
WE'LL FINALLY BE BRINGING IN THE BULLDOZERS IN JUST TEN DAYS.

HUH !?
BY THE WAY, I WANT YOU TO CALL THAT DALANG TO PERFORM A WAYANG KULIT AT YOUR HOUSE TOMORROW NIGHT
YOU HAVE A SOLID ALIBI, RIGHT ?
BUT OF COURSE !
THE RESIDENTS WHO REFUSED TO SELL CHANGED THEIR MINDS SO QUICKLY ...
WHY IS THAT !?
THIS IS PADUKA I'D LIKE TO CANCEL THE WAYANG KULIT TONIGHT ...
SOUTH PACIFIC RESORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION INDONESIAN BRANCH
APPARENTLY THERE WAS A WITNESS THAT SAW ME SET THE FIRE.. AND THEY SPREAD THE RUMOR ...
YOU SEE... I'VE BEEN CALLED IN BY THE POLICE ...
I WANT TO CATCH HANUMAN AT THE WAYANG KULIT
WHAT !?
YES, I KNOW I SPREAD THAT RUMOR
HUH !?
BUT IF WE DO THE WAYANG KULIT TONIGHT HANUMAN'S EYE MIGHT SHINE ON ME...
I HAVE A SOLID ALIBI, SO THEY SHOULD RELEASE ME SOON ...

PLEASE, DON'T BE UNREASONABLE!
THE VILLAGERS HAVE ANTAGONIZED US ENOUGH OVER THAT GIRL'S SUICIDE! IF ANYTHING ELSE HAPPENS, THEY'LL BE BEYOND OUR CONTROL!
THAT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME! AT ANY RATE, YOU'RE MY BAIT!
T-THIS IS TOO MUCH TROUBLE!
IF YOU KEEP BEING LIKE THAT, WE'LL BE IN EVEN MORE TROUBLE!
BECAUSE MY ONLY OTHER OPTIONS ARE TO CANCEL THE PROJECT OR LEAVE THE ISLAND BY TOMORROW
IF I DON'T, HANUMAN WILL KILL ME!
!!
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MR ZERO
I'M PADUKA, THE TOURISM DEVELOPER
I SEE
HAHAHAHA. THERE'S NOTHING TO BE WORRIED ABOUT HE'S A RELIABLE ALLY

YES, I'M IMPRESSED THOU KNOW.
BUT BEFORE HANUMAN, THEY'LL INTRODUCE A JESTER NAMED BAGONG

IT'S ALMOST 1:00. THIS IS WHEN HANUMAN WILL ENTER

THE SPIRIT OF ALL HUMAN GREED, POWER, HONOR, AND ALL WORLDLY DESIRES ARE EXPRESSED BY THAT FACE, SHAPE, AND FORM
THIS ART FORM DIDN'T JUST START RECENTLY. IT HAS A THOUSAND-YEAR HISTORY
.....

HAHAHAHA...

THERE IT IS!
EE EE EEE EEP!
WOW!

IT'S HANJI-MAN'S CURSE! RUN!
GYAA AAAA AAAA AAH!
BUT YOU WON'T BE SO LUCKY THIS TIME!
YOU HAD A LOT OF NERVE THREATENING ME IN MY SLEEP!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SIR?
YOU'RE GOING TO THE BIG HOUSE FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER!

WHO ARE YOU ?
THEN ALLOW ME TO EX-PLAIN
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN
AND IN DOING SO, TO FIGURE OUT THE TRICK BEHIND ITS EYES ...
I WAS ASKED TO CREATE THIS ...
THAT'S THE PUPPET THAT PADUKA TOOK AWAY FROM ME THE OTHER DAY !
YOU REMEM-BER THIS, RIGHT ?
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN DREA-MING ...
THAT'S PRE-POSTE-ROUS !
AH, YES, I REMEMBER... HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT HANUMAN'S EYES SHINING ...
I FIGU-RED OUT THE TRICK.
PUTTING A KRIS UP TO MY THROAT AND THREATE-NING TO KILL ME IF I DIDN'T LEAVE THE ISLAND WITHIN A WEEK!
AND THAT NIGHT, YOU CAME INTO MY ROOM WHEN I WAS SLEEPING, WEARING A HANUMAN MASK ...

THE THINNER THE HIDE, THE BETTER
THIS IS BECAUSE THE WEIGHT OF A WAYANG PUPPET IS PROPORTIONAL TO THE TANNED CALF HIDE USED TO MAKE IT
IF THE AVERAGE WEIGHT OF A WAYANG PUPPET IS TEN, THIS ONE WAS FIVE. IN OTHER WORDS, IT WAS HALF AS LIGHT
IN ORDER TO CREATE THE SAME PUPPET, I HAD TO FIND OUT ITS WEIGHT FIRST.
THERE'S ANOTHER REASON I FOCUSED ON THE WEIGHT.
THESE RIPPLES ADD FURTHER EXPRESSION TO THE PUPPET'S LIMBS
THE REASON IT'S BETTER IS BECAUSE HIGHER-QUALITY HIDE SEEMS TO RIPPLE WHEN YOU GRAB THE END OF THE PUPPET AND SHAKE IT.
I LOOKED ALL OVER JAVA, BUT COULD NOT FIND ANYWHERE THAT SOLD TEN-YEAR LEATHER
BUT TO CREATE A PUPPET THAT IS HALF OF THE AVERAGE WEIGHT, YOU WOULD NEED TO TAN THE HIDE FOR TEN YEARS.
YOU CAN OBTAIN THAT HIDE ANYWHERE THAT WAYANG PUPPETS ARE MADE.
ONE HIDE WAS TANNED FOR FIVE YEARS, ANOTHER FOR TEN, AND STILL ANOTHER FOR TWENTY.
LET'S SAY I HAD THREE PIECES OF CALF HIDE OF THE EXACT SAME THICKNESS
BUT I DID FIND IT ON THE NEIGHBORING ISLAND OF BALI!
THE PUPPETS WITH AN AVERAGE WEIGHT OF TEN WOULD BE MADE OF THE LEATHER TANNED FOR FIVE YEARS

BUT THEN I LEARNED ABOUT THE FRIZED PUPPET OF THE MANGKU-NEGARAN ROYAL FAMILY OF SOLO
AND UNFORTU-NATELY, THE EYE WAS JUST AN ORDINARY HOLE
THE ONLY PROBLEM LEFT WAS THE SHINING EYE
THEY USED A JEWEL FOR THE EYE
I'LL USE THE PUPPET FOR "BIMA", ONE OF THE GOOD PRINCES, FOR MY RECRE-ATION
I'M GOING TO RE-CREATE THE TRICK
THERE IS A BLACK QUARTZ EMBEDDED IN BIMA'S EYE
THEY ORIGINALLY EMBEDDED A RUBY IN HANUMAN'S CRIMSON EYE !
AND THAT RUBY WAS USED HERE!

THE REAR AUDIENCE, OR THE AUDIENCE BEHIND ME, SEES HANUMAN.
THEN HANUMAN MAKES HIS LONG-AWAITED ENTRANCE
NOW, I WILL PLACE HANUMAN OVER TOP OF BIMA SINCE THEY ARE BOTH SIMILAR IN SHAPE, THIS CAN BE USED TO PLAY BOTH BY FLIPPING IT AROUND
THEN THE BLACK QUARTZ IN ITS EYE GATHERS THE LIGHT AND EXPANDS IT.
BUT THE AUDIENCE IN FRONT IS ACTUALLY LOOKING AT BIMA. HOWEVER, DUE TO THE CURTAIN IN BETWEEN THE PUPPET AND THE AUDIENCE, ALL THEY SEE IS THE SILHOUETTE, MAKING THEM THINK THEY'RE SEEING HANUMAN
HE FLIPS THE HANUMAN WITH SHINING EYES AROUND, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PULLING A REGULAR HANUMAN OUT OF HIS POCKET.
WHILE THE FRONT AUDIENCE IS MAKING A FUSS, THE PUPPETEER HIDES THE PUPPET FROM THE REAR AUDIENCE WITH HIS BACK
OH HHH!

BY THE TIME THEY RUSHED HERE FROM THE FRONT, ALL THEY SAW WAS THE REGULAR HANUMAN.

THEN HE USES HIS BODY AS COVER TO MOVE THE BIMA PUPPET, AND PLACE IT WITH THE OTHER PUPPETS

UG GGG HHHH ...

I FOUND IT! THERE'S A BIMA PUPPET RIGHT HERE WITH HANUMAN PLACED OVER IT !

MR ZERO, IF YOU'VE STUDIED THAT MUCH, YOU SHOULD KNOW HOW MUCH THE PEOPLE OF JAVA HAVE SUFFERED UNDER DUTCH RULE... HOW WE HAVE USED THE HERO "HANUMAN" TO EXACT JUSTICE ...
AND YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT RUSKA IS STEALING OUR VAST FIELDS AND PLAINS, DRIVING HUNDREDS OF OUR FARMERS OFF OF THEIR LAND !

ZE-RO ...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME ?

THEN YOU ARE NOT ON THE SIDE OF JUSTICE !
I KNOW
I HAVE NO NEED FOR JUSTICE WHEN IT COMES TO BUSI-NESS.
SINCE I HAVE PROMISED YOU LAND AS YOUR REWARD, THERE MAY BE LEGAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED. I HAVE ASKED THE LOCAL ATTORNEY MR. MILIGORASH, TO BE WITNESS TO THIS DEAL.
FINE BY ME.
TAKE HIM AWAY !

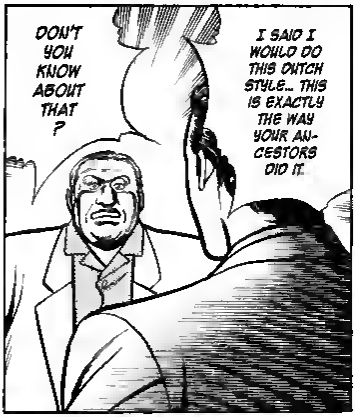
WHATEVER LAND THIS COIN CAN COVER ON THIS MAP IS YOURS
RESORT DEVELOPMENT ZONE
THEN AS PROMISED
OHHHHH, THAT DOES SOUND GOOD. YOU MEAN AS IN DUTCH COFFEE ?
IN HONOR OF YOUR HERITAGE FROM THE GREAT KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS, WOULD YOU MIND IF I DID THIS DUTCH STYLE... ?
HAHAHA! VERY WELL! YOU ARE FREE TO BUILD A VILLA ON THAT LAND OR PASS IT ON TO SOMEONE ELSE WHATEVER YOU SEE FIT
YOU MUSTN'T, SIR! THE DUTCH STYLE WILL LEAD TO SEVERAL PROBLEMS IN THIS COUNTRY !
EXACTLY
AL-RIGHT
.....
YOU DARE DERIDE MY GREAT ANCESTORS ?

!?
!?
RESORT
DEVELOPMENT
ZONE

WHAT? Y-YOU CAN'T DO THAT !

THEN AS YOU PROMISED, I WILL TAKE ALL THE LAND SURROUNDED BY THIS COIN ALL THE LAND THAT YOUR COMPANY HAS BOUGHT FOR THIS PROJECT !

MIJ-GORASH! WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

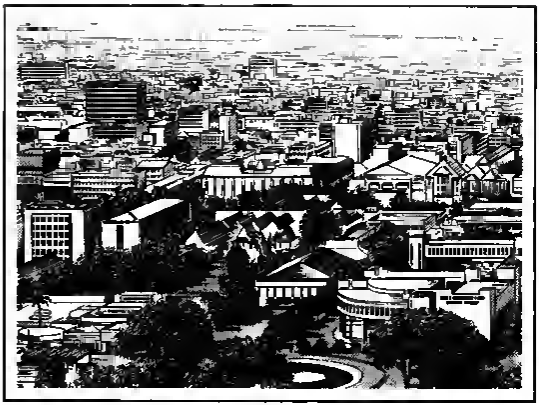

DON'T YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT ?
I SAID I WOULD DO THIS DUTCH STYLE... THIS IS EXACTLY THE WAY YOUR AN-CESTORS DID IT.

THIS IS PERFE-CTLY LEGAL !
I RE-MEMBER NOW !

TOLD HIM WHAT ?
WHEN THE DUTCH DROPPED THEIR ANCHORS OFF THE COAST OF JAVA... THEY TOLD THE KING AT THE TIME...

WHAT ?

ゼロ3
THE KING HEARTILY AGREED.
THEN WHAT HAPPENED ?
SO THE DUTCH ASKED THE KING TO LEND THEM A PLOT OF LAND AS WIDE AS THIS FIVE RUPIAH COIN WAS ON THE MAP
THE KING'S PARLOR HAD A SMALL MAP OF THIS COUNTRY
"WE WOULD LIKE TO START TRADING, BUT IT WOULD NOT BE CONVENIENT FOR US TO KEEP COMING BACK AND FORTH FROM OUR SHIPS"
THAT IS THE DUTCH STYLE THAT YOU HAVE JUST AGREED TO
AFTER-WARDS, THE ISLAND BECAME A DUTCH COLONY
W-WH ... WHAT !?
BUT THE DUTCH WERE TOO CUNNING THEY ELONGATED THE FIVE RUPIAH COIN JUST LIKE HE DID NOW, AND SURROUNDED THE ENTIRE ISLAND OF JAVA
I WOULD LIKE TO FREEZE MY LAND FOR NOW IF THE JAVANESE PEOPLE COME UP WITH A GOOD USE FOR THE LAND, PLEASE LET ME KNOW
MR MI-LI-GO-RASH
T-THAT'S IM-POS-SI-BLE !



JUMP COMICS DELUXE

ZERO

THE MAN OF THE CREATION

WRITTEN BY AI EISHI
ART BY SATOMI KEI

Vol. 1

CHAPTER 14
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN

TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS

PROOFREADING BY
DESTORYERRING

EDITING BY
LUKESKYWALKER

SUPER JUMP COMICS